Let Communists Speak for Themselves:

It appears to be the will of those who control the communication lanes of this continent that we shall hear much about Communism and nothing at all from Communists. Our instructors—press and radio—tell us constantly of "Communism", its "atheist philosophy", its "materialism", its "terroristic plots". But we are just about never presented with a real live Communist. These are kept strictly out of focus and out of hearing. Even the POW's from Korea who might have become a little well-disposed towards the enemy are whisked away into mental hospitals, and to prevent them from saying a kind word for their captors they are not allowed to speak into the microphones of our news agencies. Loud-mouthed professional radio barkers speak for them and tell us they are in a state of shock and can't talk. As for Americans who are Communists, even Party leaders, they are heard no longer in public places or on the radio. Their words are not published in our larger circulation newspapers or magazines. They are imprisoned for the "crime" of being Communists. In discussion programs, in the town-halls of the air, the great controversy of our time is carried on in the forced absence of one of the parties to the controversy. Yet the Communists keep on talking, yes, even though ignored by commercial publications, even though they face jail sentences, they go right on, and their words, printed in small pamphlets will be read aloud in distant places and here and there throughout this land. As for instance, in a little book published by New Century, 832 Broadway, NY, which contains the statements made by thirteen Communist leaders before being sentenced in the New York Smith Act trial, last February.

Our readers know what we think of the Smith Act. It thumbs its nose at the basic law of the USA. It murders thought. It has been called a "thought-control" act, and thought, controlled, is dead. This whole trial, along with similar trials throughout the country, has produced in the USA a situation of great danger to the world. We are interested here just for the moment, however, in presenting a few sentences or paragraphs from what these "guilty" Communists have to say about the trial, about themselves as men and women and as Communists.

Here is Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, already a legend in the history of the American work-class movement:

"It is a terrible thing to see one's country in the grip of fear—needless, stupid, foolish fear; fear of imaginary enemies, fear of our allies and friends; fear of the accusing fingers of stoolpigeons, fear of losing one's job or one's citizenship or one's place in a community. The whole governmental bureaucracy, wasting billions of dollars, boasting, bragging, bullying, is whistling in the dark of fear, trying to make the whole world afraid of us. But some bright morning the American people, your Honor, will come out of this fog and...will ask themselves, 'Who is afraid?'

"It is from a small handful of frightened rich that this contagion has spread—the men of the trusts, who never loved their country more than their stocks and bonds, whose patriotism is always on a percentage basis, who would rule and exploit and use violence against not only their fellow countrymen but the human race. They would plunge the world into a sea of blood by atomic warfare in order to maintain their own mean and mercenary rule, their way of life, and foist it upon other people who want none of it. Great as the danger looms, I have faith that fascism will never come to pass in our country. I am proud of the role that our Party has played in signalizing that danger since 1935. American Communists shed their blood in Spain and in every theatre of action during World War II against fascism...

"Our lives, our work, our aspirations are part of the American scene for the past half century. Our predecessors go back a century and more. Somewhere and soon the Smith Act will go into the discard as did the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1800, the Fugitive Slave Laws of the '60's, the Criminal Syndicalist Laws of the 1920's.

"The fog engulfing courtrooms, middle class juries and the press will lift among the masses of plain people, the ones who never get on Federal juries because

their appearance and manner doesn't satisfy a hard-boiled political appointee who splits his infinitives, doubles his negatives and toadies to the prosperous.

"A people's movement is arising in our country like a strong fresh prairie wind against repressive legislation, loyalty oaths, congressional investigations, witch-hunts, political trials and the like. The people will repeal the Smith Act and see that its victims are released, and that will be long before a transition to socialism, your Honor."

Obviously this Communist is a woman of faith, a very deep and abiding faith. She reminds us of the early Christians.

Then here is Claudia Jones who turns the edge of the trial against the prosecutors, quoting Marx's prediction that "the time would come when the powers that be would no longer live by the very laws they themselves have fashioned."

"It was in an American junior high school where I first learned of the great traditions of popular liberty of American history, for which I then received the Theodore Roosevelt Award for good citizenship.

"That I have learned to interpret that history and to work to influence its change for the betterment of the people with the indispensable weapon of Marxist-Leninist ideas, that is the real crime against me.

"Of all other charges I am innocent.

"It was here on this soil (and not as Mr. Lane would depict to this Court, as a young child of eight years of age waving revolutionary slogans), that I early experienced... the bitter indignity and humiliation of second-class citizenship, the special status which makes a mockery of our Government's prated claims of a 'free America' in a 'free world' for 15 million Negro Americans.

"It was out of my Jim Crow experiences as a young Negro woman, experiences likewise born of working-class poverty that led me in my search of why these things had to be that led me to join the young Communist League and to choose at the age of 18 the philosophy of my life, the science of Marxism-Leninism—that philosophy that not only rejects racist ideas, but is the antithesis of them."

And there is the gentle scholar publisher Alexander Trachtenberg:

"I am proud to stand here before you with these dear comrades of mine, and with the books in the dock with us, and ready to be judged for publishing them. There are millions of these books abroad in the land today, and I am happy in the knowledge that they will continue to bring light and warmth and love and comradeship among the men and women, workers and farmers, Negro and white people, in whose homes they live. I salute them in the hope that there will be more books coming out to keep them company. Of this I am sure."

The poet-philosopher V.J. Jerome expresses the same prophetic faith in a whimsical story: "A group of people stood before a show window admiring an imposing painting of a gladiator and a lion. In that painting the conquering gladiator's heel crushed the lion's throat. The onlookers stood in rapt wonderment before that prowess. Just then a lion passed by and he too stopped to gaze at the painting. As he passed on he was heard to murmur, 'It would be the lion on top, had a lion painted that picture.'

"Indeed, your Honor, over vast stretches of the earth the picture is already being repainted. And in good time, your Honor, it will also be repainted here."

We recommend that you read this pamphlet. Thirteen voices speak in it. Thirteen completely individual personalities, each with a distinct flavor. One bond holds them together: an apparently ineradicable faith in the ultimate victory of the people against their enemies. As Louis Weinstock expressed it, there was in this trial a 13th juror, Hysteria, who carried the other 12 to a verdict which history will upset. But Weinstock, an American of the old tradition, the very antithesis of a conspirator, who had cleansed the temple of labor in New York and hates corruption with his whole soul, is not so much concerned with this trial as with the wider issue of the decay of the republic. "Yes, I am a Communist," he says, "and I served on leading bodies of the Party from time to time. I fully subscribe to the aims, objectives and principles of the Communist Party; because of these principles I consider myself a better American and

a better citizen than some of those in high government position who swear to uphold the Constitution and distinguish themselves by violating it.

"I refer to those government officials who are wined and dined at the tables of the lords of the underworld. I am referring to mayors and police chiefs who tip off hoodlums to hide because the heat is on, as happened in New Jersey.

"I am referring to judges who buy their black robes from underworld czars, as was revealed during the recent crime investigation in the City of New York, where local Tammany Clubs were selling these jobs at a price."

And then, from across the Atlantic where hysteria is not yet full-blown, comes the voice of William Gallacher. We have just read his book, "Rise Like Lions", (Lawrence and Wishart, London). It is the story of Gallacher's experiences from the end of the second world war to 1950 when he stood for election in the Scottish constituency in West Fife and was defeated. It is mostly a documentation of his struggle in the House of Commons to expose the truth and to shame the Attlee government from its brutally imperialistic course. We can imagine many people reading this book (if they can be imagined reading it at all), people who have been reared in the recent American tradition of Philbrick, Budenz and Co., asking themselves: Can this man be really a Communist? This man so utterly human that he could find a personal bond with such a political enemy as Baldwin? This man who was loved by the clerks and officials of the House of Commons and who never failed to find time for the enrichment of personal relationships? This man from whom life struck sparks of wit and warm laughter and song? This teetotaler whose spirit would permit no usquebaugh to blunt its thrust into the realities of life?

Even Molotov said he had never seen a Communist like Gallacher. But the point is, Gallacher is a Communist. And an individual. We would say that he carries with him the heart of the Christian tradition. He might quarrel with this, but whether he quarreled or not, we should still say it. After all, there he is, self-revealed in every line of his book, a transparent man if there ever was one, a true innocent. And yet, because of this quality he is feared by evil-doers and loved by honest people. He fights, as it were, without a shield, other than the shield of conviction, and his blows strike the harder and straighter just because none of his effort is diverted to trying to make himself presentable to the enemy. That is the difference between Gallacher and a man like Attlee in whose very accent one can hear the class obsequience.

We could easily fill a dozen issues with quotations. Here is how he describes the British Tories when Ernest Bevin and his colleagues were scuttling socialism and betraying Britain.

"See, look across at them. The dull, deadened eyes look up, lighted by a gleam of hope. They look around at one another. They begin to smile. They're alive again. Bevin has caught them right at the brink of the pit and brought them back on to safe ground. How they cheered him, how they praised him in those early days, as he went blundering on, preparing the great revival of Toryism."

Concerning Marshall Aid and what he calls the "dollar trap":

"Never was so fraudulent a piece of business so widely and so persistently blessed. Deliberate calculated policy to keep us from trading in other directions, where dollars would be quite unnecessary. To make sure that there would be no such trading, the war scare was worked up to a white heat; and on the strength of this, a whole long list of goods was banned as exports to the Soviet Union and the New Democracies. We were in a dollar trap, and the Americans were determined to keep us in it.

"There we were, running about and banging up against the bars. But see, there is an opening in one corner. Let's get out of it. What! Get out of it? Don't you know that if you go through that opening the Communists are waiting to get you? Oh my, that's too bad. So there's nothing for it but to stay put. That's sensible, just you stay in the trap and we'll see that you get a bite of food when you need it. But don't poke your nose out or the Communists will snap it off.

"We remain in the trap. Cripps ran around trying one expedient after another, always at the expense of the workers. Cuts and more cuts. Profits go up, prices

go up, but wages are kept down. All this represented a repudiation of all that the Labour Movement was brought into existence to achieve. Could any of the pioneers of the Labour Party, the trade union movement, or the co-operative movement, ever have conceived it possible, that instead of leading the workers forward and upward, the leaders of these movements would be holding them back and keeping them down? It is almost incredible that such a thing could happen, but that's what we had to face and fight as best we could in the House of Commons.

"Behind it all, and responsible for it, was pressure from America. But why did the Government not resist the pressure? Because its leaders had already abandoned Socialism, and had entered into an alliance with the Tories to maintain British imperialism. For this purpose they needed American aid. So it came about that America had a strangle grip upon our economy and was able to impose the will of Wall Street on us. To what sad state has this once-proud country been reduced? I remember speaking one night on this subject, and I quoted the well-known lines of Shakespeare:

'This England never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror.'

"Maybe not, I added, but at this present time it is giving a very good imitation of that very thing. When I think of what is going on, I am tempted to paraphrase Blake:

Bring me your dollars, bring them fast,
Bring me your bombs, that kill and maim,
Bring me your soldiers, so at last,
I can from traitor's heart exclaim:

I will not lead the workers' fight,
Nor raise the flag for which they stand,
But I will make a Yankee base
On England's green and pleasant land."

But he doesn't leave it at that. He points the way out:

"If we had built up trade and friendship with the Soviet Union and the New Democracies we could have enough work to keep our industries going for generations to come.

"Oh, but they say, we require certain goods from America. Well, we could buy them, on our conditions. For, please understand, if we urgently need goods, America urgently needs to sell goods. And if, as a result of friendship with the Soviet Union, the war scare was removed, then America would have to sell her goods under any condition, or face a general collapse of her economy. At present a full-scale crisis is only being averted by a great armaments production, for which we are helping to pay.

"The one thing, above everything else, the American capitalists fear is peace. With a cutting down of armaments production they would be truly desperate for markets. There would then be no question of dollar payments and excessive prices. We would buy with sterling and our exports to other countries would provide us with the means of doing so."

Gallacher lists the items the USA will not permit Britain to trade with the New Democracies and quotes the automobile manufacturer, Sir William Rootes, to show how British capitalism is committing suicide at the command of the USA:

"I know a little of what I am talking about. I have, on behalf of free enterprise in Coventry, travelled as an industrial ambassador of Britain to practically every country and territory in the world where there are vehicles with wheels that go round—except Russian territory where we are forbidden to sell."

"'Forbidden to sell.' To what base depths has this country been dragged...." comments Gallacher.

Yes, Willie Gallacher could be read with profit, even by capitalists in their own interest. And there are others. Mao. Malenkoff. Rakosi. Foster. Buck. Read what they say. Not what someone says they say. Begin now to re-create on this continent a climate of free expression of opinion. To prolong the present interim of closure may well be disastrous. It is time to re-open the debate and to listen to both sides.

THE MINORITY OF ONE

Why should the clergy be exempted from persecution by the fascists? Are they clothed with a certain above-average status, or with special privileges, putting them above the ordinary run of humankind who are fair game for those gangsters? If so, then they belong with the gangsters. Why should bishops confer with Caesars as to the best method of breaking the community spirit implicit in the American Constitution? "So you are after the Communists? Let us help you! For you must agree that the best Communist-hounding outfit in the USA is the Christian Church!"

To talk thus to a Velde, to talk at all to a Velde, is to lose face with Jesus.

In lining up the Christian Church as an ally of those who terrorize Communists, Christian leaders betray Jesus and his way of love exactly as Peter betrayed him.

This began to happen during those first post-war years when our magazine was deserted by many Christian leaders who found themselves tossing and turning like leaves in the storm of counter-revolution.

This counter-revolution (now openly embracing the neo-fascists) based its propaganda on a self-righteous repudiation of so-called marxist materialism and atheism. Now the relics of 19th century "materialism" could have been criticized within the revolutionary movement (as our magazine criticized it) or it could have been left to wither away as a by-product of an extinct idealism. But to join with the anti-cominterns, to vie with them, to sell them the competitive worth of one church as compared with another in the world political struggle against those who were leading the peoples' revolutions—this was, and remains, sheer betrayal of everything Jesus stood for, lived for, and suffered crucifixion for.

The Christian revolution of Jesus could have reinforced and profoundly modified the harshness of an over-statistical marxism. As a matter of fact that very Christian revolution, grown into the consciousness of Russian peasants through those centuries when Russian Christianity was free, has been an incalculable factor in the development of the Russian political-social revolution. Similarly a factor in the development of the Hungarian social revolution is the rebirth of the human revolution in the Hungarian Christian movement carried on by Bishops Veto, Bereczky, Peter, Dezsery, and the rest.

This is no appeal to Christians to say yes to every Communist proposal. On the contrary, it is to help Christians to find that place where on occasion they may say no to some of those proposals and be listened to.

If they want to make sure of not being listened to let them continue toadying to the smashers of the American Constitution which guarantees freedom of opinion and expression to minorities even if those minorities be extremely small and unpopular. Remember that minority of One who was once their Master!

TO GEORGI MALENKOV

And to Ambassador Zarubin: The time has come to correct a false impression concerning a life-long devoted friend of the Soviet Union, Anna Louise Strong, who was deported from Russia in 1949 on the nominal charge of "spying". We say nominal because the charge was never documented.

And because of this injustice Miss Strong has been cut off from that normal contact with the world which was her very life.

This appeal for correction is based not merely on a desire that Miss Strong's powerful mind and soul may be freed for untrammeled activity and influence, but also on our faith in the integrity of the Soviet Union, welded as it is with the integrity of the rising World Community.

CLARIFYING THE NEWS

By Louise Harding

"Brain-Washing"! One of Roy Howard's "reporters", Charles Lucey, wrote from Washington, April 4,

"Fear that Russia may forge an effective world propaganda weapon out of forced 'confessions' in connection with the possible war prisoners' exchange is being voiced in responsible quarters here. The concern is based on a 'brain-washing' technique by which the Communists apparently have been able to force U.S. soldiers, taken prisoner by the Communists, to 'confess' inhumanities which have no factual basis. The technique may be a refinement of that used in wringing 'confessions' from religious leaders and others behind the iron curtain in recent years.

"It has been used more recently in the build-up of the Communist charge in the United Nations that the U.S. has undertaken germ warfare in Korea and Manchuria. The Reds have produced what are made to appear as documentary films in which captured U.S. soldiers describe in detail how this country is carrying on bacteriological warfare."

And so on. The article actually states: "The basic approach is a persistent and ceaseless questioning, day after day, hours at a time under pitiless and brilliant lighting, perhaps for weeks."

This silly propaganda will not explain the films, captured from Nazi sources, showing Stepinac in cahoots with Hitler's gangsters. It will not explain the eloquent, extended silence of the US General Staff and all the other officers specifically named as involved in Germ Warfare. They are guilty, or they would long since have proclaimed their innocence.

Questions that Must Be Answered: We don't need any whitewashes about Germ Warfare. Brig. Gen. Frank H. Lamson-Scribner visited the Oakland Naval Air Station on March 1. (He is commander of the Marine Air Reserve training program). He said,

"I believe people do not appreciate that a first-class war is going on in Korea." The general said he favored aerial attacks on the Chinese Communist forces in Manchuria, and added he did not believe they would "spread the war".

While in our midst, Lamson-Scribner is not reported to have said one single word in contradiction of the charge made against him by Col. Frank H. Schwable, captured Chief of Staff of the US First Marine Aircraft Wing. Col. Schwable said:

"Just before I assumed full responsibility for the duties of Chief of Staff, Gen. Lamson-Scribner called me into his office to talk over various problems of the Wing. During this conversation he said: 'Has Binney given you all the background on the special missions run by VMF-513?' I asked him if he meant 'Suprop' (our code name for bacteriological bombs) and he confirmed this. I told him I had been given all of the background by Col. Binney."

Now, any honorable and decent man, accused of being mixed up in such hideous and outrageous business, would take the very first opportunity to speak out and proclaim his innocence. From Lamson-Scribner, nothing but silence, which, in this instance, surely gives consent.

Next, Col. Schwable says,

"The general plan for bacteriological warfare in Korea was directed by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff in October, 1951. In that month the Joint Chiefs of Staff sent a directive by hand to the Commanding General, Far East Command (at that time Gen. Ridgway), directing the initiation of bacteriological warfare in Korea on an initially small, experimental stage but in expanding proportions.

"This directive was passed to the Commanding General, Far East Air Force, Gen. Weyland, in Tokyo. Gen. Weyland then called into personal conference Gen. Everest, Commanding General of the Fifth Air Force in Korea, and also the Commander of the 19th Bomb Wing at Okinawa, which unit operates directly under F.E.A.F."

Well, what about it, gentlemen? Are you, jointly and severally, innocent? If so, SPEAK UP!

And if you will not, what about the American people? Are they a lot of dupes and cowards, like the Germans under Hitler who (see "Smoking Mountain" by Kay Boyle) now admit—or, some of them will—that they felt "there were things it was better not to know"? Such folk deserve no better fate than fell on Hitler's Germany.

Ready to Quit Germ Warfare? From Washington, April 16, came an AP item on the Eisenhower address of that date. If Russia would do certain things, stated this report, the United States would welcome agreements on global disarmament and the outlawing of atomic weapons. In this connection, he outlined a five-point program.....one of which (said AP) was limitation of a flat ban against other weapons of great destructiveness—presumably including germ warfare weapons. (Underscore added.)

Now, no one at present is accused of this crime except the United States—which is the only great power that has not signed. This writer, therefore, takes it from the foregoing, that the AP reporter practically admitted the charge and said US was prepared to bargain to abandon this ghastly, foolhardy tactic. Otherwise, why that "presumably"? People are presumed to be innocent of crimes unless they have been caught committing them.

Burma Goose: Korea Gander. Burma appeared before the "UN" with documents and witnesses, to show that Chiang's troops were aggressors in Burma and were fighting there. New Statesman & Nation reported (April 4) that "Burma's complaint to the UN is now supported by India and Pakistan, and the Siamese Government has offered to permit the repatriation of these troops through Siam. The Burmese and Indian Premiers, however, now touring the Assam frontier, not only support the view that these irregulars have been supplied through Siam, but add the vital point that they have assisted the Karem rebellion. The Premiers urge that these troops must now be interned, since their repatriation would amount to a reinforcement of Chiang's army. Clearly this matter must now be thrashed out in the U.N., where the issue may be complicated by the allegation that Americans, even if only unofficially, have taken part in the agencies supplying the Formosan intruders."

Reuters news agency reported that "Burmese political quarters asserted the new Nationalist drive, aimed apparently at reaching the open waters of the Bay of Bengal, could not have been mounted without 'active' assistance by the Thailand government, Burma's neighbor."

But the Burmese resolution was promptly sidetracked by "UN". What a contrast to Korea! The US offered no proof whatever, for its action, taken unilaterally; but "UN" immediately fell in line: Burma, on the other hand, shows up with proof—and its plea to have Chiang condemned as an aggressor is promptly turned down!

Deliberate Terrorism: "A Democracy Runs on Faith", says a San Francisco Chronicle editorial. "Faith in one's fellow men is the very basic material of democracy—in the man next door, faith in the integrity of the employed or the employer..."

And what about those federal employees being encouraged to spy on each other? What about the Guderian plan of "block wardens", adopted from Hitlerism, and now growing in USA?

New Statesman & Nation (March 28) quotes even M. Raymond Aron, of Le Figaro (formerly in the pay of Hitler) as saying, after a visit to the US, that he can no longer defend America against charges that its politics are dominated by fear and hysteria; that he had misjudged the situation, etc.

However, it is not "hysteria" that dominates the United States; it is deliberate terrorism by the Blacks.

Velde-Fascism: "I am opposed to the public library demonstration bill. Educating American people through the means of this library service could bring about a change of their political attitudes quicker than any other method.

"The basis of all communism and socialistic influence is education of the people.....If we are opposed to socialism in America, as we all say we are, we must all conscientiously oppose this bill." — Harold H. Velde (member House un-American Activities Committee) in House of Representatives, March 9, 1950.

THE WARRIOR AND THE BARD

By James L. Brewer

Crucial self revelation of Gov. Adlai Stevenson is made in an article in "This Week" (3/19/53) entitled "What I Learned About America," in which he tells about his recent presidential campaign.

Admitting an eagerness to express the "sense of overflowing which I feel today about this country", he proceeds to a rhapsodic outpouring of superlatives, pulling out all the rhetorical stops in a glowing apostrophe to an America supreme in the Armageddon task of leadership in the world struggle between the "basic forces of good and evil." He dedicates himself in ueber alles tone to the world-saving crusade. Along the campaigning trail he found overpowering evidence that "our thinking today is inspired by an upsurging desire for great and lofty things, by a kindled passion to give freedom a fuller meaning, and to bring fruit to the so far barren ideal of peace."

No hint that any composure of the present world conflict depends strictly on the possibility of peaceful coexistence in a mutual spirit of challenge and competition.

History, he cries, as one speaking of the anointed of God, "will record this as the period when the torch of free world leadership was held out to America as the one nation which could keep it alive among the smothering forces of darkness." And then he really overflows:

"My impression then is of a nation unbelievably strong with the powerful muscles, clear mind and clean heart of youth entering upon maturity, and with youth's great need to guide the essential forces of its eagerness by wisdom's reins of firm patience and unalterable purpose. There is in my mind no shade of doubt as to the ultimate achievement of our hopes. Having set our course by the stars of great moral purpose, no false lights will draw us aside or stop us short."

And our late candidate makes pious renunciation of party reservations, and commits himself in the common cause to contribute in "building unity and common purpose which are so great a part of America's strength and the world's necessity" against the one enemy. There must be no partisan cleavages in the light of Holy War necessity.

The democratic candidate would have it decisively known that the 1952 election did not turn on little issues of domestic concern, such as farm programs, the Taft-Hartley Act or tidelands oil. No, no, the issue on which the election turned and on which he was at one with his "opponent", is war on the reds, and he's on the side of his "opponent" all the way.

"The attacks which have been made upon the basic principles of Christianity and democracy by the freedom-fearing anti-Christs of Communism," says Stevenson, "have diverted most of us in this country from little disputes and brought us closer together as a people than ever before."

There is no real, disturbing occasion for political division over violation of civil liberties. We must not, of course, "for the first time in our history uproot the Bill of Rights, invade our sanctuary of diversity of thought, imposing an iron conformity on one set of ideas and their expression." Handsomely said. And he nimbly supplies neat metaphors illustrating ill-advised impetuosity, of a farmer assuming a saving of time by driving his plow through a rocky field, or a carpenter sawing through a nail. "Such behavior," he says, "would be the irreparable blunting of priceless working tools of democracy."

But to our beguiling phrase-maker the black record of assault on the Bill of Rights represents little more than short sightedness. Such action, he says blandly, is just needless, "for we are today relentlessly" (carrying out the neat metaphors) "removing every stone of perfidy from our soil and drawing every nail which treachery has driven into our fiber." (Poignant flash-back, forsooth, to the Carpenter and the Cross?)

Does such cerebrating sinuosity reveal aught else than a dire malady of Blind Spot in the democratic, national leadership of our time?

Mr. Stevenson emphasizes the insignificance of two-party disparity by de-

claring definite establishment today of the tradition of free enterprise as the true American motivation albeit to be tempered with a certain diminuendo of its rugged individualism and laissez faire.

Our hero goes on with his noble effacement of partisanship in a gracious and eager accord with the new party succession: "Perhaps it is only necessary to accomplish our ends that we realize fully the significance of the drama in which we now play so great a role. The new President has said, in words of wisdom and courage, that the struggle today is between nothing less than the basic forces of good and evil." (Emphasis added) "To be aware of this as a people is to know that now there can be no craven compromise of basic principles, no withdrawal behind the illusions of half solutions."

Economist Scott Nearing succinctly puts the general situation in its true light in the March "Monthly Review": "Eisenhower goes beyond Truman" he says, "in his belief in American Destiny, and, in himself, as the servant of that destiny. Most of the Inaugural Address is devoted to this theme. Here are some sentences:

"'Forces of good and evil are massed and armed and opposed as rarely before in history.'

"'The enemies of this faith know no god but Force, no devotion but its use. They tutor men in treason. They feed upon the hunger of others.'

"'Freedom is pitted against slavery; lightness against the dark.'

"'Destiny has laid upon our country the responsibility of the free world leadership.'"

Comments Nearing: "This is a proclamation concerning a Chosen People and their manifest Destiny. Here is language which Emperor Hirohito and Fuehrer Hitler understood and used. It is the language in which ruling oligarchies customarily clothe their authority. The Inaugural concludes with the portentious words:

"'My citizens, I thank you.'"

As the new, national, political dispensation has brought forth a new portfolio of cabinet status to be the Bureau of Public Welfare, and the Department of Labor has been placed on an ostensible basis of non-partisanship with a Democratic Secretary, why not the official recognition of a new post of Court Poet (with Stevenson as Poet Laureate) for the duration at least of this period to be known as that of the Warrior and the Bard.

Listen to him sing (or, should we say, crow?):

"I see America today as a nation standing on the eve of life's most glorious stage—a young nation coming to maturity with almost unbelievable powers at exactly the time that the history of civilization demands.

"If this evidence of the unlocking of America's fabulous power gives cause for great pride and satisfaction that feeling rises to exultation when you realize that these powers are being directed by a united people towards great moral purposes."

To what grandeur of "Onward Christian Soldiers" mobilization the Laureate may move us! Familiar with music and song he envisions us displaying the strength of unity of feeling as imparted by Wagner's "Pilgrims' Chorus", "when woodwinds, strings, brass and percussions move into a swelling symphony of unalterable purpose."

The record of the challenge, we hear, will be that "we were ready—fully prepared in mind and heart and soul to face a future greater than we might have chosen of our own free will."

"The unity and intensity of America's inspired purpose is the great fact of history in this century," the Bard concludes.

Thus, transcending the fickle fortunes of partisan strife, may he be duly memorialized as Singer of the new order of the Golden Destiny of Freedom's multi-millionaire Statesmanship, his song reaffirming Bishop Berkeley's famous New World salutation, "Westward the course of empire takes its way, the first 4 acts already passed; a fifth shall close the drama of the day; Time's noblest offspring is the last."

ONE

(Formerly The Protestant)

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